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FRENCH

1705

THE
French Wanderer ;
OR: THE
STRAGGLER
FROM
Mareschal *TALARD*.

Detain'd by the
City Hermidons.

Taken from the Original.

Printed, and Sold by the Booksellers of *London*
and *Westminster*. MDCCV.

Price 6 d.



T H E

French Wanderer;

O R: T H E

STRAGGLER, &c.

2 **T** Was in the 16th Year of the
 Reign of a Thing, said, not to
 be in Being among the *French*,
 call'd *Liberty and Property* by
 the *English*, that I resolv'd to pay their
 Kingdom a Visit, in order to make a Enqui-
 ry into the Excellence of its Constitution,
 and be inform'd of the Certainty of what I
 had heard by Report. But neither the Per-
 plexity of the Publick Affairs (the Two
 Nations being then Engag'd in a War with
 each other) nor the Danger I might run the
 Risque of, if Discover'd, as to my Religion
 and Principles, would permit me to go un-
 disguis'd, I therefore did as Thousands of
 my pious Brethren had done before me; and
 under a Pretence of Abundance of Religion
 and Poverty, abjur'd the *Pope* for the *Devil*,

turn'd an *Occasional Conformist*, and was admitted among the rest of my Fellow-Labourers in Hypocrisy near *Sohoe, Spittlefields, &c.* As my Curiosity brought me thither, so it was but Necessary I should Employ my self as soon as possible towards its Entertainment, and make such useful Remarks as might Satisfie that of others. To describe this vast City would be Foreign to my Design, who came to Instruct my self in the Manners of the People, not the Models of their Buildings, tho' it is as Beautiful in its Structures, as it is Wealthy and Populous in its Inhabitants, and every thing in it but the Iniquity of their Practices, is of Invitation to draw both our Wonder and Esteem after it. I took up my Lodging in an *English* House to get into the Knowledge of the *English* Language as soon as possible ; and I'll say that for my Landlady who was a True *English Woman*, she had *Tongue* enough to Inform me. In a little Time, you *French Bougar*, you *Priest in Masquerade*, you *Papery and Slavery-Monger*, were Appellations thought too good for me ; and I was forc'd to March away from my *Little Tenement* with Bag and Baggage, after having such Breaches made in my Ears by the Peals of her Ordnance, as render'd me too weak to Stand a General Assault. Got rid of this Woman, who seem'd to have a *Punctum Saliens*

Saliens in her Tongue, I apply'd my self to a Female who had undoubtedly one in another Orifice. She was a Strict Calvinist, a Single Woman, but no Maid, very Handsome, a Constant Frequenter of Morning and Evening *Lectures*, and one who to humble a Sinner, would suffer any one to be upon his Knees with her at all Opportunities. Mrs. *Rachel* was her Name, and she Receiv'd me as Demurely and Stiff, as if the Almonds of her Ears were fall'n down, or she had been troubled with a Quinsy. *Peace be unto you*, said the Unregenerate Babe of Grace, *You are Welcome to my Poor Habitation*; she might have said for my Money, for she lov'd the Mammon of Unrighteousness, altogether as well as she did Lying Backwards, which was to the last Degree. *Poor Gentleman! It Grieves me to the Soul to think of your Persecution! Is not that Thief, that Murtherer, that Journeyman to Satan, that Mazarine's Bastard, that Tyrant Lewis the 14th, gone to his Master the Devil yet, to Receive his Wages.* I comply'd with her Temper, Rail'd as much against him as she could wish; and added to her Contentment by a Thousand Satisfactory Tokens of Grimace, that shew'd my entire concurrence with her Sentiments: This occasion'd a sort of an Intimacy, that Intimacy grew up to a Friendship, and that Friend-

Friendship kindled it self into a Love, that might have had the Name of Lust from its Consequences. In short, this was the School-Mistress that was to instruct me, and I was apt enough to be inform'd in my own Nature; so that the many Colloquies we held together both at Board and elsewhere, made me almost as Skilful in the *English* Tongue, as one of its own Natives: But she had a pestilent way with her, and her Sanguine Complexion requir'd more Meals than Loves Cook cou'd afford her: We had no sooner Din'd, but *Come my Dear, shan't we go and Digest this wholesome Creature we have fed upon,* with the Saint-like Expressions of *Baxter* and *Bunyan*. I knew what she meant well enough, and was forc'd to submit for Quietness-sake, and read her such *Lectures* day after day, as exhausted my Spirits to such a Degree, that I look'd like a Skelleton worn out to the Stumps. said Madam *Incontinence*, the Devils *Chair-Woman*, I am sorry my *Necessities* require me to tell you a piece of *Ill News*: You are sensible Monsieur *Chateau*, that you have been here 17 *Weeks*: Yes, that I am, thought I, with a Witness. And you cannot but remember I have left nothing undone to oblige you; you have had the use of my House, and my Board, &c. so long, without taking notice of any Payment, when my Circumstan-

cumstances are very strait, and it's not in my Power to stay for my Money any longer; besides, I have had a Vision this Night that tells me this Communication of ours is Sinful; We that are of the Elect ought to have an Abhorrence of it, (and to shew our hearty and sincere Repentance) should in no wise continue it. My Demands are Twenty Five Pounds, and you must Excuse me if I Entertain no Lodgers for the Future, having had enough to Torment me with Remorse for you, all the Days of my Life. The latter end of her Discourse was as I could wish, though I thought that which was the Burthen of it, the *Twenty Five Pounds*, not altogether so Pleasant; however I laid hold of the Opportunity, jump'd out of Bed, and told her down the Money upon her Toilet, said it was a Grief to part with her, but her Repentance carry'd such Conviction with it, that it should be follow'd by mine, gave her a Salute, shrug'd up my Shoulders that had scarce any Veins, &c. after a dry solitary Kiss or Two, such as are giv'n upon Loves Fasting-days, I turn'd my Back on her, in quest of another Landlady, and she hers on me, in quest of another Lodger to Solace her self with, whom I hear since she had bespoken before-hand: This put me in mind of some *Verses* which were made in *England* at the time of Disband-
 ing

ing their *Forces*, at the Conclusion of the *Reswick Treaty*; which are as follows:

*Our God and Soldier we alike adore,
Just in the Brink of Danger, not before;
The Danger past, both are alike requited,
Our God's forsaken, and our Soldier's slighted.*

Where should I fix my self next, but as Good Luck would have it, at a House in which I propos'd to continue during my stay in these Parts. The owner of it was a *Scotch* Depriv'd Bishop, a Man of Singular Learning, and Excellent Conversation, whose Integrity will ever be a Reproach to the Times in which *Episcopacy* ceas'd to flourish in that Antient Kingdom. A Wife, a Daughter, and a Servant Maid, compos'd his whole Family, and he liv'd as if he was hourly in Expectation of Death; so that I needed nothing to Reform me from the Pursuit of my past Intrigues, but a due Reflection on the Example every one of the little Family in their several Stations set before me. From his Lordship, my new Landlord, I learn'd the Springs and Movements that push'd forward the Great Wheels that were to determine the Fate of the Hierarchy, and was sufficiently satisfiyed that though the *Calvinists* of these Times seem to make it their Business to Preach

Preach up *Moderation*, there are no such Persecutors as these *Toleration-Men*, when the Power is in their Hands: But to leave the Affairs of *Scotland* for those of *England*, I am to let you know, that among other Accidents that happen'd to fall out since my Arrival in these Parts, that in particular relate to my self, It was my Fortune one Night to be at a certain Tavern in the City later than ordinary; to be plain with you, I play'd the Ill Husband, and going Home while the Watchman was crying *Past Two a Clock*, was Saluted with a *Who comes there?* I thought it my Duty to give an Answer to his Question, and very respectfully told his *Midnight-Ship*, that it was *Monsieur Chateau*: *Who the Devil's that*, quoth he, *some Fellow or other sent over by the French King to Burn the City with a Sixty Six Fire Ball*. By your leave, Sir, you must along with me before your Betters, and be Examin'd by his Worship the *Constable*; That I will with all my Heart, cry'd poor *Pill-Garlick*, not doubting but my Innocence would be a sufficient *Protection* for me, before any *Christian Magistrate*; but I found to the contrary, the *Man of Authority*, alias the *Queens Representative* from *Eleven at Night* to *Six in the Morning*, sate in his *Elbow Chair*, swelling himself in a proportion of

Greatness adequate to his *Office*, and accost-
 ed me with *Friend*, *This is not a time of*
Night, when he might have said *Day*, for
any Honest Man to be out of his own *Lodgings*.
 You are carrying on another *Assassination*,
 for all that I know; search his *Pockets* *Bar-*
naby, and see what *Papers*, &c. he has a-
 bout him; Ten to One, for so that *Hang-*
ing Look of his whispers me in the Ear, but
 he has *Pistols* and *Picklocks* about him.
 The Fellow was as *Quick* as possible, and
 was at the bottom of my *Pocket* before the
 words could well be said to be out of the
Constables Mouth, and up he came with
 what Silver and Gold I had then about me,
 as I take it, to the Value of a *Hundred*
Livers, or thereabouts. Its even as I thought,
 said *Her Majestys Picture in Minature*, this
French Gold of his confirms me in the O-
 pinion that he is some *French Emissary* or
 other, examine his *Pockets* once more, *Letters*
 are Things we want to *Convict* him with.
 The Fellow brought out my *Letter Case*,
 gave it to this *Great Officer of State* to per-
 use; but all my *Correspondencies* being
 with those of my own *Nation*, he might as
 well have had the *Alchoran* in his Hand, as
 to his understanding it, as the *Papers* that
 were Inclos'd in it: However he took 'em
 out one by one, and pretending to know
 the meaning of 'em, turn'd 'em the wrong
 end

end uppermost, and set his Lips a going as if he had the *Tongue* at his *Fingers* ends. What a *Providence* is this? Said the *Knight of the Painted Staff*, 'tis even as I suspected, a downright *Conspirator*! Sir, I shall provide you a *Lodging* for this *Night*, and take care of your *Papers* and *Money* till farther *Orders*; Light away *Dick*, *Tom*, *Sam*, and *Harry*, and attend me to *Woodstreet Compter* with this *Dangerous Offender*. Nothing would avail that I had to say for my self, and I made a thousand *Expostulations* to no manner of *Purpose*: Drag me, they wou'd, like a *Thief* to the *Compter*, and I was forc'd to submit to their unreasonable way of *Treatments*. You are to understand, that this *Compter* is one of the *City Prisons* for *Debtors*, and such as are *Arrested* for *Actions* at *Law* within the *Liberties*; but made use of at *Nights* by these *Jacks in Offices*, to secure stray'd *House-Keepers* or *Lodgers*, that are *Disorderly* and keep *Ill Hours*. In hither I was brought, with my *Fanizaries* about me, and *Cerberus* the *Turn Key* or *Door-Keeper*, was ready to admit me: Slap went the *Great Iron Gate* after me, and I was conducted into an *Apartment*, that had *Cobwebs* on its *Walls* instead of *Tapestry*; a *Bed* without either *Tester*, *Curtains*, *Flock* or *Feathers* in it, for it was stuff'd with

Straw, one broken piece of a *Chair* to sit upon, three parts of a *Joynt-Stool* for a *Table*, with abundance of *Melancholy Inscriptions* on the bare *Walls*, which had been plac'd there by dint of *Small Coal*, in the room of *Landskips* and *Pictures*. Sir, said the Fellow with his Bunch of *Cold Iron* in his Hand, *your Money for your Chamber and Sheets!* I look'd about me again, to see what he could mean by those Words, for the Devil a bit of any thing that I could perceive look'd like a *Chamber*, or in the nature of what are commonly call'd *Sheets*. Had he giv'n the Name of a *Coal Hole* to the first, and said the last was made of the *Stuff Sacks* are made of, for they were full as *Black* and as *Coarse*, 'twould have been something, but *Chamber and Sheets* was the D—I upon *Two Sticks*. However I was forc'd to *Knock under the Table*, as the saying is here, tho' you are not to think it was that in the *Room*, for I had none; and to submit to the *Conditions* he propos'd to me. *Five Shillings* for the *Sheets*, and *Five* for the *Bed*, was the Burthen of his Discourse, and down went a *Transitory Guinea*, which the *Constable* civilly lent me out of my own *Purse* to bear my *Charges* with: The Fellow took it, without giving me his *Hat* for it; told me he would give me the *Change* out of it on the

the *Morrow*, but that *Morrow* is not come to this day ; lent me the *Snuff* of a *Candle* to *Light* me to my *Kennel* with, flung a *Great Iron Bar* cross the door, and lock'd me into my *New Lodgings*, where I could not think my self safe as a *Thief* in a *Mill*, while I had such a *Rascal* near me. You may judge I pass'd the Night but very scurvily, not having been us'd to such *Hardships*, even in *Pagan Countries*. Is this the Land of *Liberty* and *Property* ? Thought I ; give me the Place of my *Nativity* again ; *Wooden Shoes* without *Confinement*, is far more Eligible than *Leather* ones with.

Reflexions of this Nature kept me Awake, till I heard my Jaylor go to the Pens where the Beasts, my Fellow-Prisoners (for our Usuage was not such as is given to Rational Beings) were Enclos'd, and Unlocking their Respective *Padlocks*, gave 'em Leave to *Turn out*, an Expression that signifies *Rise*, among *Pluto's Domesticks*. At last he did the same by mine, and Accosting me with the Face of Authority, told me the Constable staid for me, and that I must *Turn out* immediately to the *Bull-Head Tavern* over the Way ; The Name of a Tavern reviv'd me, and I jump'd off from the Fifteenth Edition of the third part of a Blanket with as much Agility, as if I
had

had lain in a Feather-bed all Night, or had been between the Good Holland Sheets. Not so fast, my Nimble Monsieur, cry'd the New Landlord of my *Iron-bound Tenement*, you must take me along with you. Which was permitted me some time after, and my Brazen Companion and I, with 2 or 3 more to look after me, were Conducted up one Pair of Stairs, where we found his Worship, and the rest of the Staff Officers a Smoaking their Noses over a Gallon or two of Wine, as if they were not so much in Haste as my Keeper pretended. I had the Honour to have a Chair brought me, and Leave to sit Cover'd, like a Grandee of *Spain* before his Catholick Majesty. Here's to the Downfall of the *French Tyrant* and Arbitrary Power, said the Scoundrel, even at a time when he was Exercising of it to the Highest degree. Sir, if you please you have the Liberty to Pledge me. My Men and I have put you to as little Charge as possible, there is but Three and thirty Shillings to pay, and we have been here Attending for your Coming at least 3 Hours. I took the Glass in Hand and Drank the *Aforesaid Health*, as the *Mer-midons* call'd it, and Begg'd I might have Leave to Toast to *Two* very great Strangers, which I obtain'd, and drank to the Return of *Liberty and Property*. Away with this

Offender, cry'd the Mock Magistrate, You shall pay for this Boldness before we part with you, take my Word for't. I could not but perceive what he said was true with half an Eye: For I saw him Disburse the Reckoning out of my Green Purse, and Pocket up the Residue. The next thing they had to do was to Hawl me before a Justice of Peace; The Knight was as ready for such purposes as my Persecutors could wish, and came out to us with as much Gravity, as if he had all the Statutes of Europe in his Head. Morrow Mr. *Constable*, I wish all Officers that are Subordinate to Men of my Function would put the Laws in Execution as you do, *said He*, My Clerk and I might bite our Nails all the Morning, and have nothing to do, but for such Vigilance as yours. What Offences is this Gentleman guilty of, doubtless some *Papist* or *High Church Man*, for there is not so much as one Line of *Moderation* in all his Countenance: Your Honour has a most Distinguishing Judgment, reply'd my Accuser. My Watchmen found him in the Streets at a very Unseasonable Hour between 3 or Four a Clock in the Morning, and gave him the *Word*, when he drew his Sword like a Fury, and Attack'd him in such a Manner, that it was *Heaven's Mercy* but he had been all put to the Sword; but it broke
in

in his Hand, and with much ado he Secur'd him. I held up my Eyes and my Hands, denied every *Article*, but to no Purpose; the *Court* over-rul'd me, and the *Watchmen* interrogated about me, who all agreed in the same Story, with numberless *Additions*, as breaking their *Lanthorns*, &c. The *French Gold* in my Pocket, as likewise my *Letters*, were brought in as *Articles* against me; and tho' I insisted I was a *French Protestant*, and a *Stranger*, it avail'd me nothing; *Seignior Clerico* had written out my *Mittimus* before-hand, and it must not be spoil'd, I was to be Bound over to the next *Sessions*. Thus was I in a *Peck* of *Troubles*, when Two *French Merchants* whom my *Bills* were always drawn upon, came in luckily to my Assistance; they gave Bail for me, and I was order'd to appear after paying my *Fees*, at the next *General Goal Delivery*. It seems *Thirty Shillings* and a *Louis d'Or*, was not the *Summa Totalis* of the Charge I was to be at. There were Four *Lanthorns* to pay for, *Attendance Money* for the Rascals of the *Prison*, whose Service I had much rather have been without; *Fees* for letting me into the *Prison*, and letting me out; and finally and lastly, a Daub in the Hand of *Half a Piece* to the *Clerk*, or rather *Master and Man*; for they frequently go Halves with one another in
such

such Cases. But how to pay all this without Money, there was the Thing to Employ my thought about. At last with much ado, thro' my Friends Intercession with *Tea and Nay* the Conyskin Man, or *Justice* of the *Coram*, the *Constable* was oblig'd to *Refund* the small Matter that remain'd in my *Piece* of *Network*; for he had made bold to let some of the *Yellow Boys* stick to his *Fingers*, which, with the help of some *Auxiliaries* from my *Two Acquaintance*, paid the *Turn-Key* his Demands, which was *Two and Twenty Shillings* for letting me *in* and *out* of a Place I would have given him *Twice* the *Money* not to have had the *Sight* of; got a tolerable sort of a *Look* from the pretended *Clerk* of *Discharges*, even when I was under *Prosecution*, and pay'd the *Fellows* for the *Breaking* of *Lanthorns*, which I never felt, heard of, or understood. *Experience* makes a *Man Wise*, say the *Antient*, but I was Young enough to be farther impos'd on after mine. The *Constable* got the Place of my Abode from me, had his *Emissaries* about me to *Affrighten* me with the *Danger* of a *Prosecution*, should I let *Matters* come so far as to a *Tryal*, and persuade me to come to an *Amicable Agreement*, and make my self *Easy*, while it was in my *Power* so to do; inso much that I gave way to their *Persuasions*, ap-

pointed a Day of *Meeting*, and pay'd down *Ten Guineas* more to purchase my future *Quiet*, which was but short-liv'd, as you'll find by the Sequel. Having met with such unparalell'd *Injustice*, without any *Relief* from one of the *Chief Magistrates*, I was resolv'd to visit the *Courts* of *Judicature*, to see what manner of *Law* gave *Authority* to such *Proceedings*; and I step'd to *Westminster Hall*, where the several *Courts* of *Justice* in this *Kingdom* are held, and having squeez'd my self thro' a *Medley* of *Attornies*, *Bailiffs*, and *False Witnesses*, got a sight of the *Tongue Pads* within the several *Bars*. The *Court* of *Chancery* presented me with a *Suit* that had been *Eight Years* depending, and was as far off from being *Decided* as when it was *first brought*. Said I to my next Neighbour, a Man might have gotten an *Estate* by his *Industry* in half the *Time*, which these are at *Law* Tooth and Nail to *Lose* it in. When will this *Suit* of theirs be *Determin'd*? When these *Men* in *Black Gowns* here, please; that is, when neither *Plaintiff* or *Defendant* has a *Coat* to their *Back*. Alas! Alas! Notwithstanding you now see it in *Westminster Hall*, it goes backward like a *Crab*, and you'll see it to *Morrow* or next *Day* no nearer to its *Journeys End* than the *Pomp* in *Chancery Lane*; it has from thence to go
the

the round-about way to *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, and from *Lincolns-Inn-Fields* to the *House of Lords*, before it will arrive at its *Ne plus Ultra*. Say you so, reply'd your humble *Servant*, this *Equity* of yours is so long *Wind-ed*, I'll have nothing to do with it; it must undoubtedly be too hard for a Man that has not *Lungs* as *Tough* as *Whit Leather*: And so I jogg'd forwards to the next, where I found Mr. *Observator*, the Famous *English Incendiary*, waiting in *Expectation* to receive the *Judgment* of the *Court*, for being found *Guilty* of *High Misdemeanour* the *Term* before, in *Writing* and *Publishing* a *False, Trayterous, and Malicious Libel*, call'd, *The Observator*; that *Traduc'd* the *Queens Majesty* in Her *Royal Administration*, the *Prince Her Husband*, Her *Ministry*, the *Judges*, and *All Men* that were not of his *Republican Principles*. Now, thought I, Mr. *Nobs*, your *Heart* goes a *Pit-a-Pat*, and I shall hear another *Whipping Sentence* pass'd upon you, tho' your last was *Forgiven*. But I was mistaken, as well as abundance more who waited there in expectation of the same *Event*. A *Nimble Tongu'd Man* in a *Gown* stood up in his behalf, found a *Flaw* in something or other, which had either happen'd thro' *Negligence* or *Wilfulness*, and *Culprit* march'd off, *Drums Beating*, *Colours Flying*, and all the *Marks of Honour* that

are usual in the like Cases. A precious *Stick of Wood* that *Lawyer* of his, who could never have vindicated his *Client's Practices* in such a *Manner*, had not he made them his own. But he's related to a Great Man, and has the *Good Word* of a *Party* that is too Great to be disoblig'd, and so let us take our Leaves of him, and the Court too which he made such a Considerable Figure in. I made the best of my way to the next Bench, where it must be said, Four as Reverend and Learned Persons sat as could be seen in a Thousand. The youngest of 'em all was the Chief in Authority, and a Gentleman of Great *Patience* and *Temper*. He Examined Witnesses with the Severest Caution to 'em to Speak Truth, but all to no Purpose, there were Hirelings in the *Hall*, and the Jury must go according to the Evidence, and the Judge according to the Verdict of the Jury, This put me in Mind of a Receiv'd Custom we have in France, of not Trying Persons or Causes by Juries, but leaving Things to the Decision of the Judge, after having Examined the Witnesses on both Sides, upon Oath, and taken a Time appointed to weigh Matters Seriously and coolly himself, before he brings the Cause to his Brethren the rest of the Judges, to give their Determination on either side. A Custom that would tend very much to the Benefit of the Subject,

were

were it in Use here. Yet tho' I am oblig'd to do Justice in speaking of the Judges, I cannot but wish I could do the same by the Lawyers that Plead before them. *Ut melius possis fallere sume Togam*, was *Martial's* Opinion, and it concurs with mine, tho' the Gown might hide their Cloven Feet, their pitchy Hands would shew themselves thro' the Sleeves of it, as might be seen by the S—t of the *Ill-favour'd Countenance*, whose Fingers were as Quick as his Tongue, and would make *Black, White*, but it should cost him a Fall, upon a *Pecuniary Occasion*. This very Numerical piece of *Patch-Work* from *Plowden* and *Coke* upon *Littleton*, had at least taken ten *Peoples* Money without doing one of 'em the least Service, because their Causes would not bear it; but I saw a Breviate offer'd him that was Clear as Noon day for a Defendant that came to him in *forma Pauperis*; but Mr. S—t was more Tongue Ty'd than *Balaam's* Ass, he cou'd not Speak till two *Angels* appear'd. Here were abundance that were as Busy as *Bees* without Practice, and as many that were Idle with it. One walk'd about the *Hall* to see what Fool wou'd buy Ten Shillings worth of Law, and another was here and there, and every where to Sell Knavery by Ounces. To conclude, the Literal Construction of *Otium Occupatum* was visible in

a great many Faces, there were so many *Species* of *Ridicule* here, that it would take up more time than I have to spare, should I offer to give you a full *Description* of it. The Person that bore me Company (for I had one in the Nature of a Guide) would needs have me to the *Court of Requests*, before I took *Cognizance* of the *Exchequer Bar*, which is the last *Court of Judicature*, and up *Stairs* we went to it thro' a *Crowd* of *Footmen*, who were calling themselves by their *Masters Names*; the *Parliament* was then *Sitting*, and there wanted not a *Subject* for Variety of *Observations*. Here walk'd a *Projector* almost without any *Cloaths* to his *Back*, with a *Great Man*, whispering *Ways* and *Means* into his *Ear*, for him to run away with the *Credit* of 'em. And there the *Two Burrough M—m—rs* Cheek by Jowl with the Fellow I mention'd before, who thinks his *Observers* have as much perspicuity of *Judgment* and *Thought* as *Sir Roger L'Estranges*. After having *Congratulated* his *Safe Delivery*, they pinch'd him by the *Hand*, and left the *Marks* of it behind 'em for his further *Encouragement*. Here walk'd about an *Honest Good Orthodox Divine*, who was for turning *Fasting Days* into *Red Letter'd Festivals*, expecting when the *Member* he either went to *School*, or was at the same *University* with, would take

take him to the *Tavern*, and give him a hearty *Glass* and a *Dinner*; and there one of the *Dissenting Perswasion* Conning over a *Sentence* or *Two* by way of *Extempore Ejaculations* to excite *Zeal* in the *Man* of his *Election* against any thing that look'd like *Persecution*, unless they vested in themselves. In short, as the *Expectation* and *Eye* of all *Europe* was fix'd on the *Determination* of this *August Assembly*, so every one was *Ambitious* of being thought as *Wise* as his *Neighbour*; and this was the *Place* of *Resort* from the *Man* of *Business* down to him that had *None*; from him that paid *Four Shillings* in the *Pound* for the *Land Tax*, to him that had not so much as a *Dirty Acre* to pay for. Every one was *Solicitous* to learn how *Matters* went, and some came to *shew* themselves, and others to see those that took a *Pride* in being *shewn*. So much for a *Court* very properly call'd that of *Requests*, since it was manifest there were more *Petitions* than *Grants* in it, and for one *Concession*, those that *Presented* them had *Twenty* *Denials*. I took my leave of this *Hurry* of *Scrions Faces* and *Political Countenances*, for another view of the *Gentlemen* of the *Long Robe*, and down I went again into the *Hall*, where going up a parcel of *Stone Steps*, I found *Four Judges* more, sitting over a certain *Prosecution* in *Parliament*.
It

It seems a Great Man was suppos'd not to have made up his *Accounts* so Regularly as the Duties of his Place requir'd, and was to Answer for it in this Place; but there was a Fault that lay somewhere, and *Cent. per Cent.* thro' never so Culpable, was Declar'd *Rectus in Curia* by the Bench, who gave Judgment in his Favour. I, who had been well satisfied in his way of De-meanour all the last Reign, and what Im-mense Riches he had despoil'd the Publick of, could not but fall into a Passion at his Acquittment, and Exclaim against the Court with more Violence of Temper than is Customary to be shewn in such Places. For which I was immediately laid Hold of by a *Shoulder-dabber*, call'd one of the Ushers of the Exchequer, and by Order of the Gentlemen in *Ermin*, Committed to the Prison of *Newgate*, *durante bene Placito*, for this Insolence of mine. Now I am in old Pickle again, thought I, sure my Mother Long'd for a Stone-doublet while she Con-ceiv'd me. I must be speaking of Truth, with a Pox to't; when had I spoke no more than the Lawyers that frequent these Places, I should have had my Heels at Liberty as well as the rest of 'em. O Truth! Truth! What an *Image* of *Terror* art Thou, that so very few People can bear with Thee! But all my Reflections with my self avail'd me
nothing

nothing, the *Vulture* of a Gaoler and his Clerk were at Hand, and I was deliver'd into their Custody by this Pink of Good-Nature, who to give me a Taſt of what I might expect from my new Goalers Inhumanity, demanded Four *Livres* of me, which in *Engliſh* Money is Six Shillings and Eight Pence. Compliance in things of this Nature was a Lecture that had been read to me before that Juncture, and he had in full of all Demands. Now for *Belzebub*, and the *Scribe* of *Darkneſs*, his *Secretary*; they took Coach with me, and Guarded me down to the *Strong Houſe* I had taken a Leaſe of for ſome time, on account of my Indiscretion; where I was no ſooner arriv'd, but they left me in a Room with one of the *Turn-Keys*, a Gripping Mercileſs Fellow that kept the *Dog Tavern*, who was to inſtruct me in what other Demands were to be made to me, in relation to the Money Concerns. My Pert ſort of a Vintner, who was as Familiar ſort of a *Scab*, as ever ſtuck upon a *Countenance*, accoſts me with *Pulling the Bell*, and calling out for *Jack* to bring another Bottle of *French Red*. Sir, ſays he, I perceive you are a Stranger in theſe Parts, and may not know that we have ſeveral Places to Lodge Priſoners in, according to their Rank and Quality; the *Preſſ Yard*,

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the

the *Master Side*, and the *Common Side*. The first had the Best Accommodation, the second was not near so tolerable, and the third had no manner of Conveniences, but bare Boards to rest your self upon; be pleas'd to make your Choice, and Mr. *Fell* has left me to come upon Terms with you. To be sure I would be first, and making choice of the *Press-Yard*, ask'd the Conditions; Truly, reply'd my very civil *Bottle Companion*, there is but one Room in the *Press-Yard* but what is taken up, and that is the same the Lord *Russel* lay in before his Execution, which will stand you in Five Guineas for my Master's *Good Will* in permitting you the Use of it; a Guinea for your *Sheets* the first *Night*, and a Guinea *per Week* as long as it shall be your *Fortune* to stay. My *Misfortune* he might have said; the Fellow undoubtedly thought I was made of *Guineas*, or he would never have made such Exorbitant Demands; I told him what he ask'd was too great a Sum for one of my Capacity, that I was a Stranger, and upon that Account might prevail for some Abatement; but he was as deaf and as subtle as an *Adder*; Not a Farthing was to be abated, he must pay it out of his own Pocket if he did; so that I was oblig'd to pay the Money down, or must have been a Companion for *Thieves, Lice, and Pick-Pockets*.

I forgot to tell you that I did not want for *Company* while there was any *Wine* stirring upon the *Table*, one Ill-look'd Fellow or other had a Fetch to get in for a Share with me ; so that what with paying 3 s. and 6 d. for a Pint and an Half of *Eighteen Penny Wine*, and what with these Adventitious Guests, the Reckoning swell'd it self up to Three and Twenty Shillings. The next that was to be shewn me was my *Room*, the Windows of which did not want for *Iron Bars* to keep me from breaking my Neck by leaping thro' 'em. Here I had leisure enough for Contemplation, and the *Liberty* of employing my *Mind*, tho' my *Body* was under *Confinement* ; and amongst the rest of my Fellow Sufferers got acquainted with a Gentleman who had been committed for a Crime, which he had lain in *Prison* for more than 8 Years, without coming to a *Trial* for it. This Gentleman understood the *French Tongue* perfectly well, was as agreeable in his Conversation as he was Instructive ; and it took off from the weight of my Misfortunes, to think I was not destitute of a Friend to Unbosom my self to ; besides, he had a perfect knowledge of the *English Constitution*, was thoroughly vers'd in the exactest Account of its *Privileges* and *Immunities*, and had nothing wanting in him towards my Information, in Affairs either Ec-

ecclesiastical or Civil; his Interest with the *Keepers*,
 for he was one of an Antient standing there; got
 me a sight of the other Parts of the *Gaol*, which
 Inclos'd the Poorest, and most Miserable Creatures
 that were under the *Sun*: Here was a *Man* that
 bore the *Image* of the *Almighty*, with a *Padlock*
 and *Fetters* upon his *Legs*, to shew his Degeneracy
 from his first Impress into a *Beast*; and in another
 Apartment of *Darkness*, not far from him, a par-
 cel of *Indigent Wretches* put in Prison, to *Starve*
 there for being in *Debt*, when if their *Merciless*
Creditors would have allow'd them their *Liberty*,
 they might have made a Tolerable Shift for their
Livings. I was struck with Amazement at a Sight
 like this, and made Enquiry of my Friend what
Crimes they were guilty of that met with such a
Barbarous Reception. The *Sin* of *Poverty* is what
 they stand Accus'd of, was return'd for an Answer
 to me, and these were the *Pains* of *Purgatory* they
 were to undergo here upon Earth, till Death re-
 mov'd 'em to a better State. Death, said I, sure,
 nothing that bears the *Name* of a *Christian* can be
 so obdurately *Cruel* as to let 'em *Perish* in such a
 Place as this, especially such as are *Insolvent*. Par-
 don me, Sir, cry'd my *Instructor*, there is nothing
 so common with the *Inhabitants* of this *Region* of
Despair; it is not among the *English* as it is with
 you *Gentlemen* of the *French Nation*, the *Plaintiff*
 is not Bound to *Maintain* the *Defendant* at his
 own *Charges*, according to his *Quality*, while in
 Prison, but the *Defendant* must find *Necessaries* for
 himself, or he may *Die* for *Hunger*; if a *Penny*
Loaf, and a *Quart* or *Two* of the *Liquor* *Adam*
 drank, call'd *Water*, will not keep him *Alive*.
 While we were Discourfing thus, up came a Fel-
 low to call down one of the *Poor Souls* into the
 Cellar,

Cellar, where a Friend of his waited to Refresh him with a Pot of *Beer*, &c. I was bid to observe the sequel, and the *Turn-Key* held out his Hand for 18 *d.* before he would unlock the Door for him: Lord, Sir, cry'd the *Poor Man*, you cannot but know that I have been a great stranger to a *Sum* like that, Time out of Mind; that's none of my Fault; reply'd *Lucifer's Porter*, I must not lose my Fee, neither will I; your *Friend* must pay it for you then, or you may depend upon it, there will be no Passage without it; which the Gentleman did, after being acquainted with his Demands; and so the Picture of *Famine* was suffer'd to creep down Stairs to his *Friend*. This led me into a Question concerning the Origine of such *Abuses* as these *Exorbitant Fees*, and how it came about that such *Villains* as these pass'd *Unpunish'd*, without being call'd to an *Account* for being so *Unreasonable* in the Receipt of them. *Omnia Romæ sunt Venalia*, was return'd as the *Solution* of it, and where nothing is to be had without *Money*, there the *Purchasers* will do nothing without it. We boast, said my new *Acquaintance*, of the *Excellence* of our *Constitution*, the *Wholesomeness* of our *Laws*, and the *Prudence* of our *Administration*; but if we cast an Eye into the *Abuses* that have crept'd into it for some Years, and are still doing the same; we shall see many *Things* that stand in need of *Amendments*, and many *Customs* that want to be *Reform'd*. We think it enough that we have made *Provision* by *Acts of Parliament* against *Arbitrary Power* in the *Prince*, without taking care not to lodge it in the *People*; which is *Suppressing* it in *One*, and *Tolerating* it in a *Thousand*. From the *Sale* of *Publick Offices* and *Places* all these *Evils* arise, and many more *Inconveniencies* are ready to follow, even when Her

Present

Present Majesty has issu'd out Her *Royal Declaration* in the Beginning of Her Reign, to *Stifle and Discountenance* such *Irregular Practices*. All *Subordinate Offices and Places of Trust* are publicly made *Sale* of, and it's no new thing among the *Printed Occurrences*, to find *Such a Man is Dead*, whose *Place is in the Gift of the Lord*——, and will bring his *Lordship* in *so many Thousand Pounds*, it being worth *so much per Annum*. Ask a *Prothonotary* or *Filazer* what he means by such *Extravagant Demands*, he'll immediately tell you his *Place* stood him in *so much*, and it would not bring him the *Interest* of his *Purchase Money*, should he bate you *One Farthing*. Enquire of my *Lord Mayors* or *Sheriffs Officers*, upon what pretence they ground their *Despotical Extortions* in *Arrests* from *Poor People* in their *Custody*; they'll give you by way of Reply, *Z*——ds, do you take 'em for *Madmen*, they give *so many Hundred Pounds* for their *Employments*, and they'll make the *Sum* up again, say what you please to the contrary. The *Keeper of Newgate* gives *Three Thousand Pounds* for his *Place*, and upon Application to him for an *Office* under him, gives that as a *Reason* why he takes *Money* for it: This occasions the *Excessive Price* we pay for our *Lodgings* in the *Press-Yard*, when there is an *Act of Parliament* now in *Force* for the *Relief of Prisoners*; That enjoyns no *Prison-Keeper* whatsoever to take more than *Half a Crown a Week* for any *One Man's Lodgings*; this is what every one of these *Rascals* palliate their *Oppressions* with, and this is the *Colour* they in *General* make use of to varnish over their *Knavery* with, *Quæ scelere est Parta, scelere est servanda, &c.* The place that is gain'd by giving of *Bribes*, must be kept by taking them: Thus the *Cards* are *Shuffled* and *Cut* till they are
Pack'd,

Pack'd, and 'tis no wonder so many *Knaves* are turn'd up for the *Trump Card*, when those that *Deal* meet with such *Encouragement*. Have you no *Laws* then in *Force* with you here in *England* to prevent such *Proceedings*, said I, Yes, yes, continued he, but our *Law-makers* are like your *Engineers*, who never *Fortify* a *Town* so regularly, but they leave a weak *Place* for themselves to *Take* it by, they never make a *Law* without a *Loop-hole* for them to creep out at.

We have *Two Statutes* that are unrepeal'd, and of very great *Cogency* in this *Case*; the one in the 12th R. 2. C. 2. and the 5 Eliz. 6. C. 16. The former Enacts, *That none shall obtain Offices by Suit or for Reward, but upon Desert*; and the latter Ordaineth a *Penalty* for *Buying and Selling* of some sort of *Offices*. I wish some *Gentlemen* in *Authority* would put 'em actually in *Force* by some new *Additions*, we should soon see the *Effects* of their so doing, by the *Removal* of those *Incumbrances* that stop the *Progress* of *Justice* in its due *Channel*: As for the *Annals* of other *Kingdoms* and *Countries*, they abound with *Instances* of this *Nature*, especially your own, which it will be needless to quote for your *Instruction*. Tho' I cannot pass by that excellent *Saying* of *Francis* the First, who was taken *Prisoner* at the *Battle* of *Pavia*, and *Lewis* the 12th, both *Kings* of *France*, which they made use of by way of *Prophecy*. *The Buyers of Offices will Sell that by Retail as Dear as they could, which they Bought by Wholesale*. *Cardinal Richieu*, that great *Establisser* of the *Present King's Greatness*, was frequently heard to have this in his *Mouth*, "That they who set *Estates*, *Offices*, and " *Benefices* to *Sale*, *Sell* with them the most Sacred Thing in the *World*, which is, *Justice*,
" and

“ and taking away the Reward of Honour, of
 “ Virtue, of Knowledge, of Goodness, and of
 “ Religion ; they open a Gate to Thefts, to Bribes,
 “ to Coveteousness, to Injustice, to Ignorance, to
 “ Impiety : In a word, to all kind of Filthiness.
 It was an excellent Character that was given to
Lewis the 9th, by an Historian who wrote the
 Transactions. “ That the Realm being corrupted
 “ with the Injustice and Extortion of Former
 “ Reigns, by the Sale of Offices and Places of
 “ Trust ; this King *Lewis* did expressly forbid those
 “ Sales, and supply’d such Places as were void
 “ with Persons of Merit and Goodness, not of
 “ Ignorance and Riches.” The *Romans* had a Law
 call’d *Lex Julia de Ambitu*, which Enacted those
 who arriv’d at Honours and Dignities by the Means
 of their Money, should be Punish’d with *Pecuniary*
Mullets, and rendred Infamous and Unfit for
 any Publick Station. The Emperours *Theodosius*
 and *Valentinianus* Enacted, That none should have
 any Publick Employment for any other Considera-
 tion, than that they were Men of Approv’d Qua-
 lifications, and of Honest Lives and Conversati-
 ons. That we of this Kingdom Act quite contra-
 ry to the abovenam’d Presidents, may be seen from
 Remissness of the Magistracy in putting Old
 Laws in Execution, and the Negligence of our
 Law-Givers in Promulging New : He that bids
 most, has the best Title to the Purchase, at our
 Office-Auctions ; and a full Purse Qualifies you
 sooner here for an Employment, than the greatest
 Exuberance of the most Penetrating Understand-
 ing ; yet do we like the *Ape* in the *Fable*, who said
 her *Children* were the *Fairest* in the whole *Creation*,
 Affirm with her, that there is no such Constitution

as ours, when if we search the *Universe*, and make Enquiry after *Publick Oppressions*, and *National Grievances*, we shall scarce find that will bear any *Proportion* to our own. I am sorry to say this under the *Present Administration*, and in the Reign of a *Queen*, that adds to the *Glory* of the *Royal Race* She derives Her Descent from, but its Impossible to stop this Deluge that daily flows in upon us more and more, without an *Act of Parliament* that shall lay, an Amule and Effectual *Punishment* on the Violation of it, which, if the Gentlemen now Assembled at *Westminster*, would take under their *Consideration*, would soon be brought to *Perfection* by Her Majesty's *Concurrence*: Notwithstanding all this we hug the *Name* of *Liberty* and *Property*, without any thing of the Effects of it, as the *Dog* in the *Fable*, who let go the *Substance* for the *Shadow*, and even amongst our *Tressures* fancy our selves at Ease. *Husbands* are forc'd away from their *Wives* and *Children* into the *Sea-Service*, and *Gentlemen* of *Birth* and *Education*, contrary to the known *Laws* of the *Kingdom*, hurried Aboard, and Incorporated amongst the *Dregs* of the *Populace*. To be *Reduc'd* and under unhappy *Circumstances*, is *secundum usum Britannici Sermonis*, to be a *Vagabond*, a *Vagrant*, and *Unaccountable Person*, at the time as the *Statute Laws* of the *Realm* Invest them with such *Privileges*, as should set 'em above the *Insolence* of these *Press Gangs*; not but allow that the *Navy Royal* ought to be *Mann'd*, and provided against all *Fears* of any *Insult* from a *Dangerous* and *Potent Enemy*; but it should be with such Men as the *Statute* directs, that are really conversant in *Navigation*, as *Watermen*, *Bargemen*, &c. or are really *Persons* of *Ill Fame*, that are a *Burthen* as well as *Reproach* to the *Commonwealth*. Dat

veniam Corvis, vexat Censura Columbas. Money or Protection from Great Persons, keep at Home those that are altogether unserviceable to the Commonwealth, while those that might be of some Use to us at Home in their Respective Occupations, are Detain'd in our Armies and Navies, where they are altogether Useless. Soldiers and Sailors here, go at so much per Head, and if a Constable or any other wants so much Money to make up a Sum, it is but Swearing the next Man he meets with is Qualify'd for the Service, and he has Twenty Shillings paid him down accordingly. What Ship, Brother Tar? Crys one of the Kidnapping Crew, while another comes up to the Man that knows no more of the Sea Affairs than my Lord Mayor's Great Horse, with a Dear Jack how dost thou do, I have not seen thee Time out of Mind, not since you and I were Mess--Mates together at Scanderoon. All that the poor Man can say for himself, avails him nothing; like *Moliere's* Miser who was persuaded that he was Mad; so fares it with him, a Seaman he is, and a Seamen he shall be, *Invito Neptuno*, tho' he is as Ignorant of Starboard and Larboard, as they that force him into the Service are of Honesty or Greek: My Companion would have proceeded farther, and given me a Description at large of other Transactions, as the Arbitrary Collection of the Window Taxes, in which poor *Crispin* the Shoe-Maker pays as much for his House, as his Grace does for for his *Sic sibi Latantur Lares*, or his Magnificent *Rus in Urbe*, and that upon Births and Burials; which if the Poor Man does not pay down immediately, as well as the Rich, it costs him the Seizure of the Chief of his Little Goods by way of Distress, and not only that, but Money to Replevy them again. All this was to

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shew that I was very much in the Wrong to make Inquest for *Liberty* and *Property*, in a Land where the *Prerogatives*, that in past Ages belong'd to the *Crown*, were now lodg'd in the *People*; and where instead of having one Man's *Word* a *Law*, and that a *Prince* his, some Thousands Usurp'd the privilege of having theirs likewise pass for one: But Notice was brought me that I had some Friends tarry'd in the *Press-Tard* to accompany me to a *Judges Chambers*, in order to give *Bail* for my *Appearance*, if requir'd, where I once more got my *Liberty*, after having my *Purse* squeez'd as Dry as a *Kix*, between the *Waiters* that attended me, *No-verint Universi* the *Clerk*, and *Gripe* the *Tipstaff*.

Two such *Memento's*, as my two late Imprisonments, made such an Impression upon my Spirits, that had it not been for the Care of my good Landlord the Bishop, and the Provision that was made for me, by way of Prevention, by the Compassionate Ladies, his Wife and Daughter, I had fallen into a Fit of Sickness. But Heaven, that had punish'd me sufficiently before for my Sins, in the *Compter* and *Newgate*, was pleas'd to withdraw its farther Vengeance from me, by Averting the Malady that was coming to take possession of my Earthly Tabernacle: However, I was resolv'd to make use of the Gift of *Circumspection*, and deferr'd going Abroad at all, except to a Neighbouring Coffee-House, or the *Venetian* Ambassador's Chappel, at Times of Devotion. When the 30th of *January* revolv'd it self again in its *Annual Course*, *Dies nigro signanda Lapillo*, a Day that should be Mark'd with Black Letters to all Posterity; a Day that has cast more Reproach and Infamy on the *English Nation*, than all their boasted Battles and Sieges can ever be able,

to wipe out. I was resolv'd to see what an Abhorrence the Children had for the Fathers Transgressions, since the Scripture says, *They shall be visited for them to the third and fourth Generation*, and make Remarks upon their Sorrows for the Murder of a Prince by a pretended High-Court of Justice, before his own Palace Gate, who was even more unblameable in his Actions, than, if such a Thing could be, they were Culpable in theirs. I need not tell you that it was King *Charles* the first of *England*, who was Married to a Daughter of *France*, not a History that speaks of those Times, but mentions its Detestation of that Cruel Martyrdom; and the Parliament of *England*, by a Solemn Act that had Pais'd King, Lords, and Commons, had Enacted and Ordain'd a Day of *Fasting* and *Humility* should be kept in *Perpetuam Rei Memoriam* on that horrid *Anniversary*. Accordingly, not doubting but the Day would be punctually observ'd at the Chappel-Royal, where the Chevalier *Dames*, one of the Queens Chaplains in ordinary, as I hear since, made an excellent Sermon, and suitable to the sad Occasion, before Her Majesty the *Royal Martyrs* Grand-Daughter; I took Coach for the *Abbey*, where was a Right Reverend Father in God appointed to Preach before the H—— of L——, which consisted at that time of Four or Five *Spiritual* P——, one *Temporal*, and the L—— K——; my Tongue had like to have launch'd out once more, but former Inconveniency I had drawn upon my self, made me leave them as I found them, without daring so much as to speak one Word, for fear of *Lobs Pound* and the *Black R——*, for *St. Margarets Westminster*, where indeed I found a goodly Appearance, that were met together to Deprecate the Almighty's Vengeance, which the

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Precious Blood of this Holy Saint and Illustrious Martyr was crying out for to fall down upon this Sinful Nation. The *Sieur Stanhope* a *Dignitarian*, and Dean of *Canterbury*, a Gentleman particularly known for his Great Skill in the Learned Languages, and his Accurate Discourses and Translations, signaliz'd himself on this Occasion, which his *Sermon* that is in Print will testify, without any farther occasion; and had the *Thanks* of the whole House, the greatest part of it being his *Auditors*, as well as the B——, who well might be desir'd to Print his, since very few of the Gentlemen who made the Request, had heard it. From hence it was but necessary that I should make the best of my way to the Fam'd Cathedral of *St. Pauls*, to see how the *Citizens* humbled themselves there for their *Transgression*; they had been the *Chief Occasion* of this *Horrid Murther*, and should have been most *Exemplary* in their *Sorrows* for it, but it happen'd otherwise; the L—— M—— thought fit to be Indispos'd that Day, and part of the C——t of A——n were oblig'd out of Compliment to him to stay with him by way of *Condolence*; tho' he might have come to *Church* without having any fear of the *Nations Sins* flying in his Face; for a *Clergyman* was put up, whose *Doctrine* was suitable to a *City Constitution*, and who knew how to prepare an *Absolution Cordial* for any *Offender* of that kind whatsoever, were his *Crime* never so *Black*. I have seen enough for one time, thought I, to keep me from troubling my self any more on this Account, and Home I went to spend the rest of the Day in Contrition for a Sin that nothing concern'd me; says *Virgil*, from one Man's *Crime* learn those that belong to the whole *Gang*; from a L—— M——'s Behaviour you may know how the

Citizens, for the generality, stand *Affected*. The Confessor, my Pious Landlord, receiv'd me with his wonted *Humanity*, and having got the *Journal* of my *Travels* that day repeated to him, broke out in these Pathetick Expressions. 'Tis a sign, my dear Friend, you are a stranger in these Parts, or you would not wonder at the Non-Observance of this Anniversary: The Face of Affairs is alter'd since the days this Act of Parliament was made, and people are so far from Mourning in private for the Heavy Judgments that hang over their Heads for this unparalell'd Act of Injustice, that they Rejoyce almost in publick for it, and have their Festivals in Select Houses to Commemorate it, call'd the **Calves-Head-Club**. I was struck with Horror at his Discourse, and desir'd him to explain himself, as to the Nature and Origine of the Club he made mention of. When he made me acquainted, that Milton and some other Creatures of the Commonwealth had Instituted this Club, as he was Inform'd, in opposition to Bishop Juxton, Dr. Sanderson, Dr. Hammond, and other Divines who met privately every 30th of January; and tho' it was under the time of the Usurpation, had compiled a Form of Service for the Day, not much different from what we find in the Liturgy. That after the Restoration, the Eyes of the Government being upon the whole Party, they were forc'd to come to these Meetings with a great deal of precaution; but in K. W's Days they met again almost in a publick manner, and apprehensive of nothing: He farther intimated that a Gentleman of his Acquaintance, one whose Veracity might be confided in, went out of meer Curiosity to see the Nature and way of managing this Club, which was in the manner following: The Club Room was at a certain Tavern, not far from Bishopsgate-

gate-street, when he was one of their *Guests*, and at the upper-end of the Room hung an *Ax*, and was Reverenc'd as a Principal Symbol in this *Diabolical Sacrament*; their *Bill of Fare* consisted of a Large Dish of *Calves-Heads* Dress'd several ways, a large *Pike* with a small one in its *Mouth*, as an Emblem of *Tyranny*, a large *Cods-Head*, to represent that unhappy *King*, singly, as by the *Calves-Heads* before they meant *Him* and all his *Loyal Subjects* that Suffer'd in his *Cause*, and were made *Inheretors* of the *Glorys* of *Martyrdom* with *Him*; a *Boars-Head* with an *Apple* in its *Mouth*, to represent the *King* by this as *Bestial*, as they had done by the others *Foolish* and *Tyrannical*. After the *Repast* was over, one of their *Elders* Presented an *'Ενωθ Βασιλικη*, which was with great Solemnity Burn'd upon the *Table* while their *Anthems* were *Singing*, which were in Praise of that *Impious Action*, and consisted of *Curses* upon the whole *Family* of the *Stuarts*: After this another presented *Milton's defensio populi Anglicani*, upon which all laid their *Hands*, and made a *Protestation* in form of an *Oath*, ever to stand by and maintain the *Company*; *Grace Before* and *After Meat* was said by Two in the Habit of **Dissenting Ministers**. Having never heard of such unparalell'd Instances of *Cruelty*, I bless'd my self at the Recital of them, and resolv'd to send you an Account of 'em, as also of what *Accidents* have befalln me since my Arrival in these *Parts*, by the first opportunity. Which I have happily gain'd much sooner than I expected; but to confirm the *Truth* of what I have receiv'd from another, with something that has fall'n out of the same *Nature* within my own *Knowledge*; tho' this *Club* is said to be discontinued since the *Reign* of *Queen Anne*. You are to understand that

that I am inform'd from unsuspected Authorities, That on the last 30th of *January*, fifteen Persons of the same sort of Principles came to the *B—H—T—* in the Burrough of *Southwark*, and calling for a Room, where they had Wine brought to 'em, fell a Drinking, and making an incredible sort of a Noise, unfit for such a Day of Humiliation; which made one of the Drawers inquisitive to know the occasion of it, when he could hear 'em Cursing the whole Race of the *Stuarts*, Blaspheming the Name of Kings in General, and Reviling their Memory to the last Degree; one of the Company was to lay down his Head, with his Face downward to the Table, while another was to come behind, and, in imitation of that Accursed Decollation, give a Stroke upon his Neck with the Edge of his Hand, which Represented an Ax; at which Blow, all the rest of the Company Hallow'd, and took off their Glasses. Thus every one was Beheaded in this Mock Manner by Turns, till a Neighbouring Justice of the Peace, one Mr. *L—*, had Information of it, and bound over every individual Member of this Hellish Society to appear before the Assizes next to be held for the County of *Surry*. This is *Matter of Fact*, I have no more to say, but to Advise you to rest Contented where you are, and where I design to be very shortly, and to remember that those are not so unhappy under one Tyrant, as those that are under Thousands.

F I N I S.



